

CANADA: An increase in ideologically driven online violent rhetoric targeting the PM s.38

TERRORISM THREAT LEVELS

CANADA ↔ MEDIUM ↔ MEDIUM Uniformed Personnel

LEGEND: Established ↔ Raised ↑ Lowered ↓ Remains ↔

s.38

In the wake of the recent Canadian federal election, and during a time of pandemic restrictions and vaccine mandates, there has been an increase in violent rhetoric against the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau. A range of adherents to ideologically motivated violent extremism (IMVE) are expressing violence on various social media platforms and secure forums. Most threats focus on PM Trudeau's role in implementing vaccine mandates and COVID-19 pandemic response measures. Other motivations behind recent known online threats made against PM Trudeau include issues related to immigration and QAnon conspiracies. s.38

Recent, specific examples highlight the nature of the threats to PM Trudeau:

- According to SITE Intelligence reporting, a mid-October 2021 Telegram post stated that people have the "legal right to shoot" politicians, including PM Trudeau, for their roles in COVID-19 vaccination efforts. s.38
- According to SITE Intelligence reporting, in early October 2021, a user in a QAnon forum stated "Shoot that Communist" when discussing PM Trudeau. s.38
- According to open-source reporting from 10 September 2021, a 32-year-old Kitchener resident was charged in connection with threats of harm and death made against PM Trudeau. The individual was part of a group of protesters that PM Trudeau described as "anti-vaxxer mobs." s.38

According to a September 2021 study conducted by the British Counterterrorism Think-Tank Institute for Strategic Dialogue, a significant proportion of verbal and online threats targeting Canadian politicians are aimed at PM Trudeau in particular. s.38

s.38

ASSESSMENT

s.38

s.38

- There has been an increase in anti-government and anti-authority rhetoric in Western democracies, and Canada is no exception. ITAC assesses that IMVE is fueling hatred for public figures and elected officials in way that justifies violence and encourages vulnerable individuals to consider violence as the only solution.

s.38

Terrorism Threat Levels

Canada



MEDIUM



MEDIUM

Threat levels as of 3 August 2021.

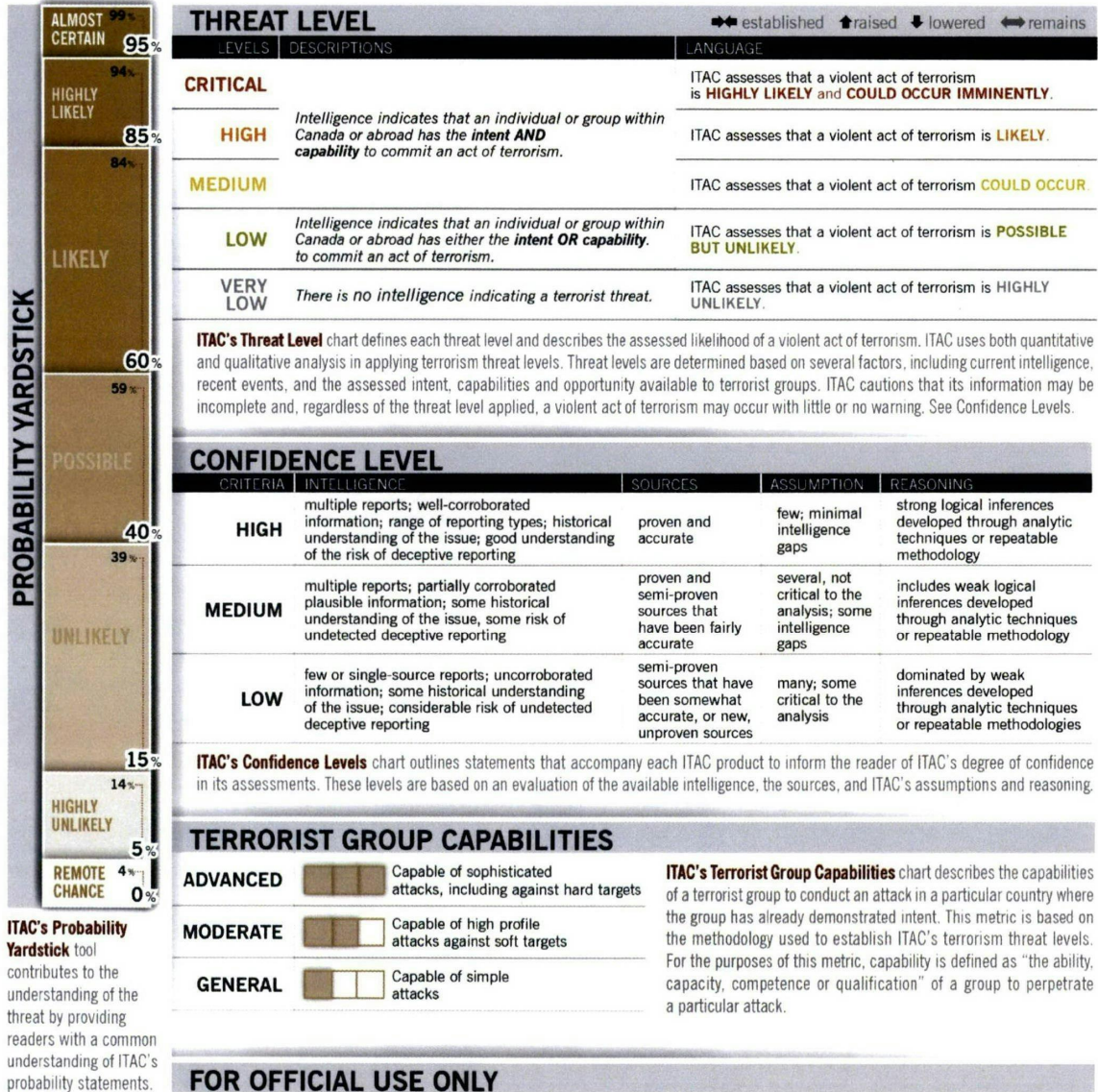
s.38

An act of terrorism **COULD OCCUR** s.38There is intent *and* capability from both domestic and international extremist actors to commit an act of terrorism in Canada. s.38An act of terrorism directly affecting **uniformed personnel** in Canada **COULD OCCUR** s.38

- Intelligence indicates that an individual or group **within Canada** or abroad has the intent *and* capability to commit an act of terrorism in Canada. There remain individuals both in Canada and abroad who advocate violence and aspire to carry out terrorist attacks domestically. ITAC notes that inspired individuals typically act alone or in relatively small groups, and that attack planning can progress quickly, and may go undetected. **ITAC assesses that an act of terrorism could occur in Canada.** s.38
- Propaganda identifying **uniformed personnel** as potential targets continues to be published online. ITAC notes that there are indications of intent to target uniformed personnel in Canada. Notwithstanding, ITAC assesses that, at present, uniformed personnel are more likely to be targeted incidentally while performing their duties. **ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism affecting uniformed personnel in Canada could occur.** s.38

s.38





ITAC's Probability Yardstick tool contributes to the understanding of the threat by providing readers with a common understanding of ITAC's probability statements.

HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

This document is the property of the Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre (ITAC). Prepared by ITAC, it is derived from various sources with information effective as of the date of publication. It is provided to your agency/department in confidence and may be further disseminated by your agency/department to those with appropriate security clearances and appropriate security systems to retain the information. It must not be reclassified or reused in any way, in whole or in part, without the consent of the originator.

Any feedback should be directed via CTSN email to: **S.38**

This document constitutes a record which may be subject to mandatory exemption under the *Access to Information Act* or the *Privacy Act*. The information or intelligence may also be protected by the provisions of the *Canada Evidence Act*. The information or intelligence must not be disclosed or used as evidence without prior consultation with ITAC.

